

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 12460 260849Z

12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HEW-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IR

SUBJ: TWO NEW PRINCIPLES ADDED TO SHAH-PEOPLE REVOLUTION

1. AT FIRST MEETING OF HIGH COUNCIL OF HEALTH AND WELFARE DECEMBER 23,

SHAH ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO APPROVE ROYAL DECREES ORDERING ADDITION OF TWO NEW PRINCIPLES TO SHAH-PEOPLE REVOLUTION: FREE MEDICAL CARE FOR INFANTS AND A COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM FOR ALL IRANIANS. THESE BECOME SIXTEENTH AND SEVENTEENTH PRINCIPLES RESPECTIVELY. NUTRITIONAL AND HEALTH CARE IS TO BE PROVIDED AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE TO INFANTS UP TO TWO YEARS OF AGE, AND A CAMPAIGN IS TO BE UNDERTAKEN TO TEACH CORRECT NUTRITIONAL AND FAMILY PLANNING PROCEDURES. SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM IS EXPECTED TO PROVIDE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR AGED OR DISABLED PERSONS, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN RURAL AREAS.

2. COMMENT: ADDITION OF FIVE NEW PRINCIPLES TO SHAH-PEOPLE REVOLUTION IN LAST FIVE MONTHS HAS LED TO SOME CONFUSION BECAUSE OF VAGUE FORMULATIONS AND OVERLAPPING WITH PREVIOUSLY-PROCLAIMED PRINCIPLES (SEE A-31, FEB. 24). FOR EXAMPLE, FREE EDUCATION THROUGH EIGHTH GRADE, ADDED EARLIER THIS MONTH (TEHRAN 12008), OVERLAPS WITH TWELFTH POINT WHICH CALLED FOR UPGRADING OF IRAN'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AT ALL

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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 12460 260849Z

LEVELS. PROVISION OF MEDICAL CARE TO INFANTS WOULD SEEM

TO DUPLICATE RESPONSIBILITY OF AN EARLIER REFORM PROGRAM,
THE HEALTH CORPS, WHICH HAS A MANDATE TO PROVIDE MEDICAL
CARE TO ALL AGES AND IS ALSO SUPPOSED TO DISSEMINATE
FAMILY PLANNING PUBLICITY AND DEVICES. (MAJOR DIFFERENCE
IS THAT HEALTH CORPS OPERATES ONLY IN RURAL IRAN.) SWEEPING
NATURE OF THESE LATEST TWO REFORM PRINCIPLES ALSO RAISES
QUESTIONS. PROVISION OF NUTRITIONAL ASSISTANCE TO BABIES IN
REMOTE RURAL AREAS WOULD APPEAR TO BE BEYOND GOI'S CURRENT
ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY. EMBASSY HAS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED GOI'S
INTENTION GRADUALLY TO INCREASE WELFARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY
BENEFITS UNTIL SOCIAL SECURITY COULD BE EXTENDED TO ALL
IRANIANS IN ABOUT 1983 (P. 10 OF A-28, FEB. 24). EFFECT OF THESE
AMBITIOUS DECLARATIONS WILL LIKELY BE TO RAISE EXPECTATIONS
WHICH GOI IS NOT YET PREPARED TO MEET.
HELMS

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